# NEWS RELEASE

### **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**

**Communications Division** 

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." Ends With Approximately 11,000 Citations Issued for Impaired Driving and Other Violations

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving and the Traffic Safety Division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) announced today the results of the recently concluded "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." Labor Day crackdown. Approximately 11,000 citations were issued statewide as a result of the increased enforcement during the impaired driving mobilization that began on August 17 and concluded on September 9.

In northeastern Indiana, nearly 1,900 hours of overtime were put in by more than 160 officers during the campaign. These officers issued more than 2,000 citations for impaired drivers and other moving violations. "Impaired driving has far reaching ramifications. It does not just start and stop with the person behind the wheel driving impaired," said Mike Cunegin, executive director of ICJI. "As a former law enforcement officer, I know first hand that a crash involving an impaired driver is devastating. What is even more tragic, is that these crashes are clearly preventable."

According to the Traffic Safety Alcohol Fact Sheet from the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, 273 people, out of 899 total fatalities, lost their lives in traffic crashes in Indiana in 2006 due to an impaired driver. "Although this statistic is disturbing, I remain encouraged by the aggressive efforts of Indiana law enforcement and their continued crackdown on impaired drivers," said Ryan Klitzsch, Traffic Safety division director at ICJI.

"I am confident high-visibility enforcement and intense media coverage deployed during this (DUI) campaign worked to heighten the public's awareness of the dangers of impaired driving. However, drivers should be aware that sustained drunk driving enforcement will continue beyond this campaign," Klitzsch concluded.



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This year's "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." enforcement crackdown benefited Hoosiers in many ways. While its primary purpose was to deter impaired driving through high-visibility enforcement, the mobilization also countered other potential traffic hazards, and rid local streets and neighborhoods of criminal activity. Following is a breakdown of significant arrests that occurred as a result of Indiana's increased DUI enforcement efforts:

County	Department	Significant Events & Arrests
Allen	Fort Wayne PD	2 felony arrests: 1 fleeing police and 1 possession of marijuana. FWPD saw several high BAC's (Blood Alcohol Concentration) – 0.49 and 0.46.
Allen	New Haven PD	Officer stopped a vehicle with a headlight out and found that driver was wanted for a rape in Ft. Wayne. The Department had a total of 14 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests and 29 minor consumption arrests.
DeKalb	Auburn PD	During an OWI arrest, 55 ecstasy pills and 2.5 grams of rock cocaine was found.
Elkhart	Bristol PD	Officer pulled over a vehicle for an inoperable plate light. The driver was driving on a suspended license and had an expired plate. A search of the vehicle produced over 30 grams of marijuana, along with digital scales and baggies.
Grant	Grant County SD	7 warrant arrests: dealing cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to deliver, possession of handgun by a serious violent felon, resisting law enforcement, failure to appear, criminal conversion, parole violation/robbery.
Noble	Kendallville PD	Positive canine alert on a traffic stop led to an OWI by controlled substance arrest and an arrest for possession of a controlled substance.
St. Joseph	St. Joseph County SD	1 possession of cocaine arrest.
Steuben	Steuben Co. Traffic Safety Partnership	An SUV ran a stop sign, vehicle refused to stop and a pursuit ensued. Driver later crashes in Michigan and was arrested. Suspect had committed an armed robbery at the Angola Meijer store and was later indicted for a similar robbery in July at a Meijer store in Ohio.

The national *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* impaired driving crackdown is a prevention program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates through funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving

